

STAT

14 December 1953

Mr. Allen W. Dulles, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

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I have just returned from a fortnight's lecture tour sponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations; and I thought you or one of your aides might be interested in the reaction of the Middle West and South to renewed advocacy of the policy of "liberation" as an alternative to "coexistence" on the one hand or preventive atomic war on the other.

As you know, the local Committees on Foreign Relations are small, select and fairly sophisticated. I was frankly surprised, therefore, to discover that tough-minded proposals for recruiting exile armies (both in Europe and Korea) elicited almost as favorable response from these people as from the American Legion, Rotary and Chamber of Commerce groups to which I am accustomed to speak on this subject.

In the discussion period that followed my remarks on psychological warfare, these points were repeatedly emphasized: (1) the sine qua non for any cold war offensive is to convince our own people, our allies, the uncommitted neutrals, and the counter-elite behind the Iron Curtain that America is going to WIN!; (2) it would be tragic to move from "containment" to nuclear firepower without giving a fair trial to nuclear politics.

The sentiment was by no means unanimous. Nevertheless, among Democrats and Republicans alike, I found a readiness to accept the hazards of "liberation" as outlined by your brother in the presidential campaign. There was no display of naive enthusiasm, for the perils of atomic war were apparent to all. Still, the majority of the men seemed prepared to acknowledge that time was with the enemy and that we would be justified in the calculated risk of attempting to engineer preventive revolution, or, at least, reverse psycho-therapy for the Soviet neurosis.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Barnett

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

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Remarks:

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